The Official **On-Line**Newsletter of the

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W30I



Allentown, Pennsylvania - USA

Officers

President: Mark S. Miller - AK3M (wa3kif@rcn.com or WA3KIF@arrl.net)
Vice President: Barry Mitchneck - KB3FMI (barrym@ptd.net)
Secretary: Rod Wolfe, Jr. - KB3HFZ (rjwolfe@rcn.com)
Treasurer: Paul Ryan - NOKIA (n0kia@arrl.net)

Board of Governors

Chris Kelly - N3RPV (ckelly@ckelly.tv)
Larry Miller - NR3R (milla@enter.net)
Carl Seier - AA3IX (aa3ix@ptd.net)
Bruce Bobo - KB3FIH (bbobojr@ptd.net)
Jim Kelly - (kellyj6@hotmail.com)

E-VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M) (wa3kif@rcn.com) or WA3KIF@arrl.net) Webmaster- Paul Ryan N0KIA) (n0kia@arrl.net)

Repeaters

146.340/146.940 (PL 71.9) 147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9)



RACES NET

Every Monday at 7:30 (Local Time)
All are welcome!



W30I Home Page: http://www.w3oi.org



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The February Meeting will be held at the Lehigh Valley Diner on Tuesday February 4, 2002 at 6:30 pm.

Program: Dinner Meeting. See page 10. Eric Olena to speak.

LVARC / RACES NET

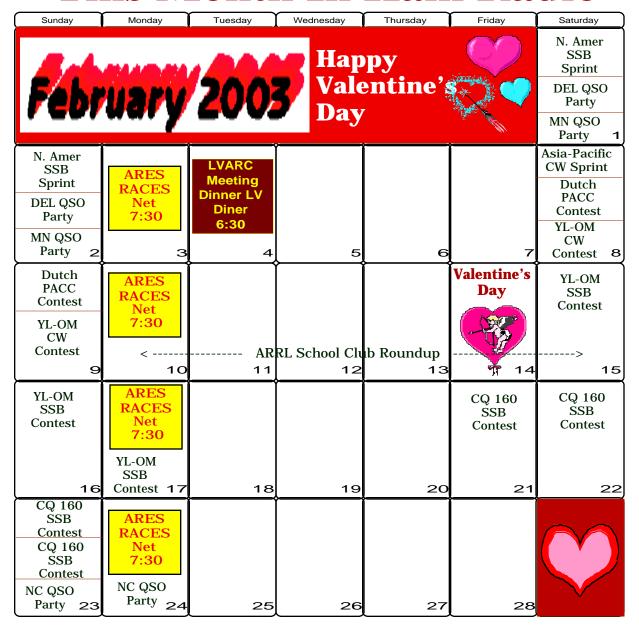
Don't forget to check into the Monday Night LVARC/RACES Net on 146.94 (PL 71.9) with an alternate frequency of 147.735/147.135 (PL 167.9) The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time.

Many club announcements will be heard there!

Month		nber of	Check In Summary 2002 Number Mondays			
<u> </u>	Check-In's					
T	CHE			4		
January		83		4		
February	VALUE DE	73		4		
March	. VLVARUZ	80	MATEVA	4		
April	April 6	81	No Branch Co.	5		
May		78	¥ %	4		
July	(CE SEE	82	LEHIGH COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA	<u>.</u> 5		
August		72	🕻 RACES 🧬	4		
September		79	MICES A	5		
October		90	TOWNEY STOP	4		
November		83		4		
December		100		5		
TOTAL FOR	2002	901	_			



This Month In Ham Radio



Tuesday March 4, 2003 - LVARC meeting at the Red Cross Building at 7:30. (Special Guest to visit?)



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 7, 2003

Meeting Called to Order by President Miller at 1940 Hrs, EST.

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were held in observance of silent keys.

Sign-in Sheet Circulated, with members and guests in attendance.

50/50 tickets sold.

Corrections/additions of minutes as printed in E-VOX.
No corrections or additions.

Treasurer's Report (Paul - NOKIA) - Paul reported a total of balance of \$935.79.

Committee Reports:

Repeater

Chris Kelly reported that he and Erik AI3D would check on the 135 machine, as time permits. The 440 machine is still not running, it was assumed that it needed repeater coordination. Jeff Kelly would have to be contacted for confirmation.

Program

Paul, NOKIA, has added a program calendar to the web site and has solicited members for help with program and program ideas. Paul has subtitled the program as, "How does that work?" Members are reminded to check the web site and offer their area of expertise in any topic that would be interesting.

Field Day

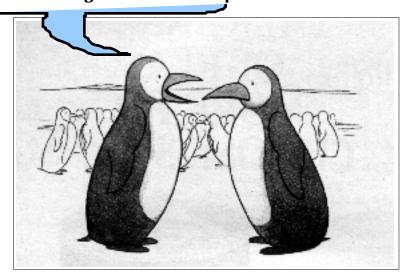
June 28 and 29. The membership has been asked to for suggestions for field day sites. Chris N3RPV started the list with the following locations: Camp Serranova (last year's site), Allentown FD Training area (Mack South Station), Allentown South Side Reservoir, and the Allentown Fairgrounds. Members are asked to vote on the site for 2003 during the February Dinner meeting. Additional suggestions will be taken at that time.

(Continued on page 30)

\$\$\$ W301 Finances \$\$\$
Balance as of 12/30/2002 \$887.84



I didn't sleep a wink last night. I kept hearing "CQ LVARC Members de N3SIG" all night !!



Fact:

Year 2000: US population 281 million,

US hams 683,000,

1 ham per 411 Americans

(highest amount of hams in the US population!)

Submitted by Erik Geissenhainer (AI3D)

Source: The internet



A Christmas Greeting From, No, Not the North but the South Pole

(Sorry Santa.....)

(from an email from Chris dated December 16, 2002)

"Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays From Antarctica.

Warmest wishes for a Happy Holiday Season from a very cold place!"

Chris





CONGRATULATIONS TO ROD WOLFE JR. (KB3HFZ)





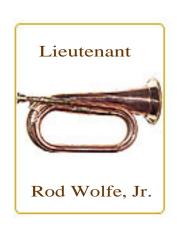
CONGRATULATIONS to LVARC's own

Firefighter - Paramedic Rod Wolfe, Jr.(KB3HFZ). Rod has achieved the rank of <u>Lieutenant</u> (Dec. 2002)

with the Reading, PA Fire/EMS service !!!!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS on receiving your bugle Lieutenant Wolfe!!

The rank insignia is one bugle (or trumpet). The trumpet was a sign of an officer because long before radio communications were available on the fire ground, the command officers would shout their orders through large brass trumpets (sort of like a megaphone). This symbol also became the rank insignia. The Lt usually has One trumpet, a captain two, a Battalion Chief would have three, a 1st Deputy or Assistant Chief Four and then a Chief would have five, or what is referred to as a "full cluster".





LVARC Dues Are Due!!

Oh no! I forgot to pay my LVARC dues!

I better mail them to Paul NOW!

Don't let this happen to **YOU!!**

Pay your 2003 dues!



(1) \$17.00 for active members (includes auto patch)
(2) \$3.00 for family members
(3) \$5.00 for non-hams.

Send your dues to:

Paul Ryan (NOKIA) 5814 Lindbergh Street Orefield, PA 18069-2250

or pay Paul at the February meeting.

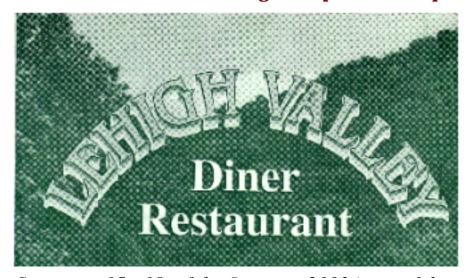
Make checks payable to: The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club



LVARC to Hold Dinner Meeting In February

The LVARC February meeting will be held Tuesday
February 4 at the Lehigh Valley Diner (just South of 22 on
MacArthur Road). As before, since this is a member's dinner,
we will meet and eat at 6:30 pm.

Eric Olena (WB3FPL) will be our guest speaker (See p. 20)



See pages 15 - 18 of the January, 2003 issue of the E-VOX for a complete look at the menu.

Members can order from the menu or the Specials of the Day.

If ordering from the "Specials of the Day," contact Mark with your choice BEFORE February 3.

In case of bad weather, listen to the "94" machine for any change in plans.



INSIDE THE LVARC





At the Board of Governor's Meeting which was held prior to the regular LVARC business meeting on January 7, 2003, the following was discussed/decided.

- (1) Paul (N0KIA) has arranged for LVARC dues to be **paid on line** using Pay Pal. More details to follow.
- (2) The LVARC financial report for 2002 was audited and approved.
- (3) Paul's "Welcome" letter was approved.
- (4) A FD chairman and FD committee will be elected each September
- (5) A Calendar of Events has been posted on the club's web site.

Please check the <u>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</u> at the club's website. Paul (NOKIA) has created an outline of events for the 2003 year. There are some events which need a coordinator or facilitator in order for them to occur. Please look at the calendar and consider offering your services!



ICE STORM ACTIVATES INFORMAL LEHICH COUNTY WEATHER NET

On Wednesday December 11, 2002, an ice storm which hit the Lehigh Valley prompted the informal weather net. At the request of Mr. John Conklin at the LC Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Mark (AK3M) opened an informal WX net. Announcements were made on both the "70" and "94" repeaters asking for road and icing conditions throughout the Lehigh County.

The "net" opened at 12:20 pm local time and reports were sent to John via e-mail hourly. Rod (KB3HFZ) took over as "Net Control" at 5:00 pm local time. Stations who offered reports included **Bob** (KE3AW), **Greg** (KB3CKD), **Jeff** (N3MFT), **Dan** (KA3ZAT), **Rod** (KB3HFZ), **Nate** (N2ADD - mobile), **Bill** (KA3RBH),

Bruce (KA3ONZ), **Jeff** (N3QZT), **Charlie**

(KB3FDM), **Bob** (WF3H), **Glenn** (N3ULW), **Bruce** (KB3FIH), **Chris** (N3RPV), **Malcolm** (N3XRL), **Erik** (AI3D), **Paul** (N0KIA), **Carl** (A3IX), **Robin** (KB3GZV), **Ken** (N3OBR) and **Jim** (KA3UQP).

The net secured at 2000 local time.



de Mark (AK3M)

For its second year, Operation Ho Ho was a HUGE SUCCESS!!!!!! LVARC Members Robin (KB3GZV), Dorian (KB3GZW), Larry (NR3R), Dick (KA3MOU),

Bill (KA3RBH), **Phil** (**KB3HMK**), **Rod** (KB3HFZ) and **I** (AK3M), armed with HT's, cameras and gifts, gathered at the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center on Cedar Crest Boulevard on Sunday December 15, 2002. Accompanying the LVARC members, were "assistant Elves," Larry's XYL (an employee of the LVHC) and Mark's XYL.

After entering the pediatric unit, members prepared to visit the childrens' rooms. There were 10 children in the unit at the time of our visit. This number varies daily so we had no idea how many children we were to visit until we arrived. Several of the children were infants or toddlers and were given gifts but did not actually "Talk to Santa."

The other children enjoyed "Talking to Santa" and were inventive with their questions. One little girl wanted Santa to tell her how many toes the reindeer had ?!?!?! After talking to Santa, the children received a button which stated, "I talked to Santa On Amateur Radio," a stuffed Christmas

bear, crayons, a coloring book, a candy cane and a certificate which also stated that they "Talked to Santa on Amateur Radio."

A HUGE TNX to all who participated and made this a **VERY SUCCESSFUL** second annual "Operation Ho Ho!" We also wish to thank Erin Shaffer who arranged for us to visit the unit and also to Rebecca, the nurse on duty at the time of our visit. I also would like thank Larry (NR3R) for purchasing all the gifts and all the "LVARC Elves" for allowing me to play

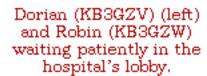
Santa again! I believe that ALL of us came away with more than we gave! Count on volunteering for OHH, 2003! (See page 29)



E-VOX



Robin (KB3GZV) (left) and Phil (KB3HMK) (right) ready to go!











Rod (KB3HFZ) (left) and Bill (KA3RBH) prepare their equipment.

Some of the gifts the children received.





Larry (K3LAR) helps a little girl talk to Santa.





Robin (KB3GZV) offers his HT to a young man.

Larry (K3LAR) (left) and Rod (KB3HFZ) (right) visit a young lady and give her a few gifts after she talked to Santa.





Dick (KA3MOU) visits a teenager, even he enjoyed "working" Santa.



E-VOX

A Thank You e-mail from The Lehigh Valley Hospital For OHH!



Erin Shaffer was the contact person for **O**peration **Ho Ho**. Although Erin was unable to attend the December 15 event, she forwarded the following via email:

Mark,

I am so happy to hear that everything went well. The staff said that everyone had a lot of fun. I look forward to see the article in your newsletter. I also received the extra toys and coloring books. I will give them to the new patients as they come in.

We thank all of you once again, for being so thoughtful and donating your time so that our children could have a little Christmas cheer:). I will be sending you a formal letter for the entire group. Is it OK if I mail it to the address you originally gave me or should I send it somewhere else? Have a wonderful Holiday and healthy new year! Thank you.

Sincerely,			
Erin Shaffer			

(See page 29 for TNX Letter)

Thanks Erin. It was <u>our</u> pleasure !!!!!!!!



THINK ITS COLD IN THE LEHICH VALLEY ???

If you think the Lehigh Valley gets cold, read Chris' email dated December 19, 2002 and look at the pictures he sent. We are in a heat wave ?!?!

De. 2002

Yes, that **IS** an airplane !! (Left)

Would you live here ????? (Right)









More snow, wind, snow, wind ... you get the idea! (Left)

In addition to the snow, the wind was 40 mph.

(Right)





HAMS AID IN MARITIME RESCUE

Amateur Radio operators on a 40-meter net that's aimed at helping stations obtain the Worked All States award are getting at least partial credit for helping to save a ham-sailor and two companions whose boat was caught up in rough weather off the West Coast December 14. Steve Letendre, KE6FQ, said that during a late 40-meter session of the 3905 Century Club Net http://www.3905ccn.com on 7.233.5 MHz, an emergency break came on frequency.

"The man's boat was in high seas and taking water approximately 350 miles south of San Diego near Cedros Island," Letendre said. "High winds and waves mostly kept him from spending too much time giving us info." Letendre says he later learned from the Coast Guard that the boat was being exposed to 12-15 foot waves and 60 MPH winds.

Net Control Station John Milner, W6BUM, requested a hold on the net while Letendre and Joe Seibert, AL1F, in Alaska attempted to communicate with the vessel's skipper--whom Letendre identified as Walter Jorgenson, W6ULT. "I was on the phone with San Diego Coast Guard, while Joe copied info as the questions came from them," Letendre said. "We were unable to get too much other info due to the boat getting slapped around pretty good. I'm sure the skipper had his hands full holding the wheel and a mic at the same time."

Somewhere in the excitement, Letendre said, the skipper fired a flare and a Mexican Naval vessel appeared and launched a raft. The passengers were taken aboard the naval vessel and the boat towed to safety. Letendre is modest about his net's role in the effort. "By the time we had good relays set up, he was rescued," he said.

The incident did provide an opportunity for Letendre to acquaint the US Coast Guard in his area with the net's existence. "The Coast Guard officer also thanked us and requested info on our group, so I gave him the home page," he explained.



From

The ARRL Letter Vol. 21, No. 49 December 20, 2002







Eric Olena

(WB3FPL) will be our guest speaker at the dinner meeting on February 4, 2003. **If the weather is threatening or bad, listen to the 94 repeater for any changes in plans.** Eric will be coming from Mohnton, PA (South of Wyomissing) and we will not ask him to travel in bad weather.

Eric holds an ARRL Field Position as the *Eastern Pennsylvania* **Section Manager.** TNX to Greg (KB3CKD) for making the arrangements for his visit.

We will be holding the dinner at the Lehigh Valley Restaurant on 7th street just South of Route 22. We will invite Eric to join us for dinner.

Please note, as all our dinner meetings, we will meet and order at 6:30 pm.

Come out and eat, list and talk to Eric.





Then and Now

Larry was K3LAR and is now NR3R and and was WA3KIF and is now AK3M



What HAM Band Segments Are The Most Popular?

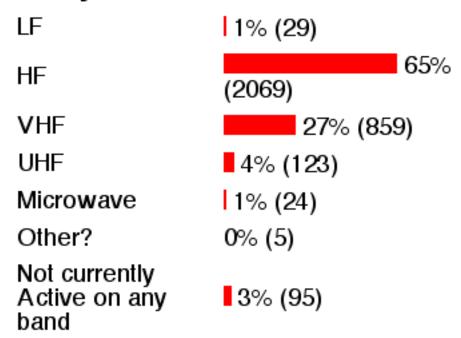
Do you operate HF, VHF, UHF .. ? What ham band segments are the most popular? eHam had a survey with the following results.



What Band segment are you MOST active on?

Posted: Sep 25, 2002 (3204 votes, 38 comments) by VK5LA

Survey Results





Chris Makes The Morning Call

The following article pictures appeared in the Morning Call (Section B) on Christmas Eve, December, 24, 2002.

A Long Way From Santa

By Ron Devlin Of The Morning Call

Snow, snow everywhere, and not a Christmas tree in sight. Such is the lot of Rhonda Ward and Chris Post, Lehigh Valley residents who'll spend Christmas in a winter wonderland not far from the South Pole.

In the land of snow and ice, second only to Santa's own North Pole, they long for a good ol' Pennsylvania winter and the warmth of family, friends and holiday cheer.

"I miss the snow falling on the trees, and taking the long way home from Christmas Eve services to look at the beautiful lights and displays on Christmas Lane," said Ward, who lives in Washington Township, near Slatington. "We have lots of snow down here, but no trees."

Ward and Post, both former Lehigh County emergency workers, signed on for tours of duty as firefighters at McMurdo Station, a government outpost in Antarctica. She's a dispatcher, he's a firefighter. Lehigh Valley duo will spend Christmas near South Pole. It's summer at icy outpost.

McMurdo, about 800 miles from the South Pole, is the largest of three U.S. outposts where cold-weather research is conducted by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Antarctic Program. The U.S. military also operates its Operation Deep Freeze program in Antarctica.

During the long, lonely hours on duty, Post returns to Bethlehem in his mind. He sees the Christmas putz and the Bethlehem star atop South Mountain.



"I miss driving across the Hill-to-Hill Bridge and seeing the tree at the Main Street exit," said Post, 24, of Fountain Hill.

There is, of course, no shortage of Christmas cheer way down under where the sun hasn't set since Oct. 23. Artificial Christmas trees lack the aroma of evergreen, but aluminum branches and bright red balls still convey the spirit of the season. There'll be a Christmas party. And Christmas Eve, 800 Americans far from home will light candles and bring the warmth of peace to a frozen frontier.

Oh, and a "Secret Santa" is expected to eventually arrive — perhaps his last stop, considering it's about as far away from the North Pole as Rudolph and the reindeer can fly in one night.

'Christmas gifts were mailed to our families over a month ago," said Ward, 38, a former Lehigh County dispatcher, "and we hope they mailed ours even earlier."

Even for Santa, flying in and out of the desolate region is a challenge. Temperatures routinely dip to 40 degrees below zero and the wind chill plunges to minus 65 — and this is summer.

"The main thing we can do here for the holidays is to keep our coworkers' spirits up," said Ward. "It's hard being away from your family at the holidays, and being this far away is even harder."

Ward and Post will be working Christmas Day, when coworkers will perform Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." They vow to, somehow, take a break long enough to see Ebenezer Scrooge share Christmas dinner with Bob Cratchit's family.

Post will be thinking of a juicy, brown turkey in the middle of a finely decorated table in Bethlehem.

"I miss having a traditional Christmas dinner with my grandparents," he says. If the Antarctic adventurers can't be home for the holidays, except in their dreams, they might find solace in the pristine beauty of the frozen continent.



Crystalline vistas stretch as far as the eye can see. A cloud of smoke rising from Mount Erebus, an active volcano, paints a white stroke across a crisp blue sky.

When the sun slips behind the mountains at dusk, the sky erupts into a chorus of fiery yellows and oranges that exudes a spiritual aura.

"I've had some amazing adventures," Ward said. She hikes terrain that few humans have set foot on. She's come across a baby seal cuddling close to its mother in the snow.

No reindeer, though. Too cold for furry creatures. Even polar bears avoid the South Pole.

Living in isolation, Ward finds, people depend greatly on one another for emotional support.

"You bond with people in such a short time," she said, "I feel like I know them my entire life."

Ward concludes her five-month tour in February, when she'll meet her family for a vacation in New Zealand.

Meanwhile, she sends her love to her husband, Bruce Ward, and their children Alex and Eric, both students at Northern Lehigh High School.

Post, who's on his second tour of duty, sends Christmas wishes to his girlfriend, Rebecca Patrick, and grandparents Matthew and Carol Post of Bethlehem and Norman and Anna Carl of Fountain Hill.

He'll be home in March.

Post is in awe of the research being conducted at McMurdo Station.

He mingles with National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts, for example, training in McMurdo's close, isolated environment in preparation for tours of duty circling Earth aboard the International Space Station.



"Scientists here are working on things that one day might provide a cure for cancer or lead to the truth of the origin of the universe," Post said.

In the end, said the former Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency worker, there's no place he'd rather be — even if it is Christmas.

"Antarctica is the most beautiful, tranquil place I have ever seen," said Post. "The beauty and magic of this ice palace temporarily outweigh the hardships of missing things I hold dear — my family and friends back in Pennsylvania." (See page 26 for the accompanying pictures to this article).

Editors Note:

In an email to me (Mark - AK3M), Chris mentioned that he really misses Yocco's and wished someone would send him a Yocco's *Doggie Pack*. Can we make this happen??







Pictures from the Morning Call which accompanied the article.



Courtesy of Chris Post FROM ANTARCTICA, Rhonda Ward and Chris Post send season's greetings to the Slatington and Fountain Hill areas.



Chris Post Special to The Morning Cal BABY SEAL cuddles close to its mother near McMurdo Station, where Ward and Post are putting in a tour of duty as firefighters.



MOUNT EREBUS, an active volcano, looms over the tundra around Camp McMurdo. Says Post, 'The beauty and magic of this ice palace temporarily outweigh the hardships of missing things I hold dear — my family and friends back in Pennsylvania.

A long way from Santa



NEW MEMBERS



The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club is pleased to welcome two new members to its membership. Applications for membership for **Tom Braun (KB3IYB)** and **Lou Poli, (KF2WO)** were approved by the members at the January 7, 2003 meeting.

WELCOME TO THE LVARC Tom and Lou!!





Following the January 7, 2003 general LVARC meeting, Larry (NR3R) demonstrated some of his HF antennas including his pictured (below) **Buddipole**!



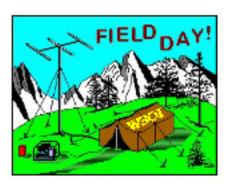




E-VOX

IMPORTANT NOTICE

regarding Field Day, 2003



de Mark (AK3M)

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to where we should hold Field Day, 2003. At the January 7, 2003 meeting, it was decided to offer the following sites and have a poll or vote from the membership to decide on the site. We are also **accepting additional suggestions from the members.** If we do decide to return to Camp Serranova, we will need to know soon so we can reserve the camp.

The following choices have been suggested (or feel free to add a site of your own).

(1) Camp Serranova
(2) Mack South Side Training Tower
(3) South Side Reservoir
(4) Fairgrounds

In addition to Greg (KB3CKD) as Field Day Chairman for 2003, Rod (KB3HFZ) and Chris (N3RPV) have volunteered to serve on the Field Day Committee. It was also decided that a FD chairman and committee will be elected at each September meeting for the following Field Day.

PLEASE EMAIL ME (Mark (AK3M) at wa3kif@rcn.com) OR MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN ON THE MONDAY NIGHT NET. I will compile the responses and we will make it official at the February 4, 2003 dinner meeting.

Please do not delay!



Late Breaking News

The following letter was received right before the E-VOX went to publication. Although out of order, I wanted to include it in this issue. (Mark - AK3M)



January 6, 2003

W30I , Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club C/O Mark Miller 5508 Hale Avenue Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18107

Dear members,

On behalf of the patients, families and staff at Lehigh Valley Hospital, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to the members of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club for coming to the hospital and allowing our patients to communicate with Santa Claus! "Operation Ho Ho" was a big hit! The unique experience brought smiles and happiness to the entire pediatric floor. They talked about it for days! The children loved meeting each of you and the families really appreciated the time you spent visiting the children during the holiday season. You really brightened their day!

As you know, our hospital admits children with both acute and chronic conditions. Some of our patients remain hospitalized for long periods of time. Our goal is to normalize the hospital environment. Thanks to the generous support of the community we are able to provide special activities and presents (the bears, coloring books and crayons were great!) to help children forget about hospitalization, especially during the holiday season. I want to assure you that you brought a great deal of sunshine to the children and families staying in our hospital.

Once again your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. A mere word of thanks seems inadequate for all of the joy you have brought to our children. We hope you accept it as a sincere token of our appreciation.

Very truly yours,

Erin Shaffer, CCLS, CFLE

Child Life Specialist, Family Life Educator



(LVARC Minutes - Continued from page 5)

The following members volunteered to be part of the Field Day Committee: Rodney KB3HFZ. Chris N3RPV, and Malcolm N3XRL. Anyone wishing to either be on the committee or has any good ideas pleas contact a committee member.

Web Site

Paul reports that the web site will soon be accepting Pay Pal cash for membership dues and yearly renewals. This is a first in the area.

OLD Business

- 1. President Miller reports that operation HOHO 2002 was a success. Pictures will appear in the newsletter and President Miller also wishes to thank all the members and their families for helping to make the event a success.
- 2. Dinner Meeting. A dinner meeting will be held at the Lehigh Valley Diner on MacArthur Rd in Whitehall on Tuesday, February 4, 2003. Section Manager Eric Olena has been invited to speak at the meeting. The topic is still unknown, President Miller will check with Greg KB3CKD to confirm all the details.
- 3. Paul NOKIA reminds all members that the 2003 club membership dues are due. You can check the website to see if your remittance has been processed. If your name is in BOLD type, your money has been posted, and your 2003 membership is valid.
- 4. Power Supply. Paul has sent a letter to Yaseu looking for the proper drop in module for the club radio. As of the January meeting Paul has not received a response.

New Business

None

New members/Guests

The Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club W3OI welcomes Lou Poli, KF2WO and brand new technician Tom Braun KB3IYB.

Motion to accept new members by: Barry KB3FMI

Second by: Rodney KB3HFZ

In favor: ALL Opposed: NONE **Motion Carried**

50/50 Ticket Winner: Bruce KB3FIH

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2016 hrs, EST.

Motion by: Carl AA3IX Second by: Chris N3RPV

In favor: All Opposed: None

Nightly Program: Larry N3LAR provided several different rapidly deployed, portable HF antennas for display and discussion.

Respectfully Submitted by Rodney J. Wolfe Jr, KB3HFZ, Secretary.